

Security Office
Office of Strategic Services
Que Building
Washington, D.C.

July 6, 1942

Subject: Investigations for Radio Intelligence Unit

To: Lieut. Col. Jean V. Grombach

1. With reference to your letter of June 30, 1942 on the subject of accelerating Security approvals on the names submitted by you, and your memorandum of July first on the same subject, this office has in the past made, and will in the future continue to make every effort to grant approvals as rapidly as is consistent with a thorough investigation. However, as you have pointed out, your work is of a highly confidential nature and under these circumstances it would obviously be shortsighted to jeopardize it by employing men who had not been thoroughly checked.

2. As you know, investigations of your candidates were for some time handicapped by the lack of complete background data. We appreciate that this situation has been corrected and that currently we are receiving SA-One Forms completely filled in. However, this office is still working under pressure to the extent that we are having to recheck earlier investigations on which more complete information has now been supplied by your office.

3. This office will waive interviews with individual Subjects wherever such action can be justified by the facts developed in our preliminary investigation. This is a modification of the procedure outlined in Special Instructions No. 20 which indicated that every Security approval would be subject to a final interview. We wish to avoid making Security requirements any more restrictive than is absolutely necessary, but it will be appreciated that in many instances it will be absolutely necessary to hold interviews and such interviews must be held by a Security Officer since our field investigators are not fully apprised of the particular problems of this organization and are not, therefore, equipped to hold such interviews.

4. Interviews can, in the majority of instances, be arranged readily in New York or Washington. This office can also arrange to send a Security Officer to Chicago if there are a sufficient number of Subjects in that general area to warrant such a trip. It is not practical for a Security Officer to try to arrange interviews in widely scattered

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points all over the Country. It is not known exactly what procedure other Government Agencies may be following in hiring radio engineers, but it would be extraordinary if they were all doing so "sight unseen." It would appear possible that a number of the candidates would be willing to come to Washington or New York if they are really interested in obtaining an important position with the Government. We realize that this will not be true in all cases, but if your candidates are not willing to travel at their own expense, and if there is no possibility of your obtaining funds to pay their expenses we, frankly, see no alternative to considering certain cases closed.

5. In accordance with the foregoing paragraph, we are returning, herewith, cases 509; 513; 515; 541; 607; 612; 614; 616; with recommendation that you attempt to arrange to have these men come to New York or Washington. Interviews in Washington can be arranged practically any time, and interviews in New York can usually be arranged for Fridays or Saturdays. If you are unable to arrange these interviews it is requested that the SA-Five Forms be returned with the notation "case dropped because final interview can not be arranged" under disposition.

6. It will assist this office very materially if your office will, in accordance with the instructions on the SA-Five Form, indicate the disposition of the case on the form itself. On the SA-Five Form as revised 6/15/42 you will note, in accordance with instructions on the top of Page 3, it is not necessary to return to us Page 1 and 2 which you will presumably wish to keep as part of your permanent record. On the earlier SA-Five Form the entire form should be returned to us since the second page has on it part of the investigation report as well as Paragraph 6 under which the disposition should be indicated. It is our normal practice when the case is completed to cut the second page in half just above Paragraph 6 so as to retain the disposition of the case in our files. At that time we will return to you the first page together with the upper half of Page 2, and an indication that the case is completed.

7. In accordance with Special Instructions No. 20, you will note that it is the responsibility of the originating official to arrange interviews wherever required. We shall be glad to discuss with you the most practical working arrangement in this respect at your convenience. However, it is impossible for this office to make the final arrangements for an interview unless your office has previously made preliminary arrangements with the Subject. Until advised by your office the Subject obviously does not know who the Security Officer is or why he is requested to come in for an interview.

For the Security Officer

James F. Lawrence

James F. Lawrence
1st Lieut., AUS
Adjutant